

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CSCE, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MILITIA INQUIRY TO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT

1. NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU CHIEF DAVID SHIPLER CALLED EMBASSY APPROXIMATELY 12:30 HOURS JUNE 13 TO ADVISE THAT SOVIET MILITIA OFFICIAL MADE REQUEST THAT SHIPLER APPEAR IN PERSON AT 17TH DISTRICT MILITIA HEADQUARTERS JUNE 14 AT 15:00.

2. ACCORDING TO SHIPLER, CALL WAS FIELDLED BY NYT LOCAL-HIRE TRANSLATOR WHO RELAYED CONVERSATION BETWEEN MILITIA OFFICIAL, WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS "INVESTIGATOR" NIKOLAY NIKOLAYEVICH CHISTYAKOV, AND SHIPLER. INITIALLY, CHISTYAKOV REQUESTED THAT SHIPLER PRESENT HIMSELF AT 17TH DISTRICT STATION, PUSHKINSKAYA 28, ROOM 19, AT TIME NOTED ABOVE. WHEN SHIPLER REACTED WITH QUERY ABOUT SERIOUSNESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES, CHISTYAKOV SAID MATTER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY "CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS" BUT WAS MERELY TO HAVE SHIPLER IDENTIFY A "PACKET" OF "MATERIALS" WITH SHIPLER'S NAME ON IT WHICH HAD "BEEN FOUND BY A SOVIET CITIZEN". CHISTYAKOV SAID PACKET IN QUESTION HAD "AVIA" STAMPED ON IT AND HAD

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APPARENTLY COME THROUGH MAILS ADDRESSED TO SHIPLER.

3. SHIPLER SAID HE TOLD CHISTYAKOV THAT HE HAD LOST NOTHING AND THEREFORE HAD NOTHING TO CLAIM. SHIPLER NOTED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO CONTROL WHAT PEOPLE MIGHT SEND OR TRY TO SEND HIM, BUT THAT SINCE HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY MISSING "MATERIALS" HE SAW NO POINT IN APPEAR-

ING AT MILITIA STATION.

4. CHISTYAKOV APPARENTLY DID NOT INSIST, AND INSTEAD INFORMED SHIPLER THAT "IN THAT CASE" HE WOULD FORWARD THE "MATERIALS" TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH SHIPLER AGREED TO.

5. COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, MFA WILL CONTACT SHIPLER ABOUT "MATERIALS" AND HE WILL BE ABLE TO PURSUE MATTER THROUGH PROPER CHANNEL OF MFA PRESS DIVISION TO GET BETTER FIX ON WHAT EXACTLY IS AT QUESTION. IN VIEW HOWEVER OF FAST-BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS HERE IN RECENT HOURS (PETERSON ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA, CRAWFORD DENTENTION), WE REPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT IMMEDIATELY AS PERHAPS ANOTHER PIECE OF THE PUZZLE. SHIPLER, AWARE OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND NO DOUBT REMEMBERING ARTICLES IN SOVIET PRESS CRITICIZING HIM, QUITE CLEARLY HAD NO INTENTION OF VOLUNTARILY PRESENTING HIMSELF TO MILITIA. TOON

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